Four of our super talented Port Douglas Students recently travelled to Tolga to compete in the Peninsula Cricket Championships and vie for selection in the Peninsula team. Jack, Charlie, Connor and Scott all batted, bowled and kept wicket well and had a great time in the process. Hopefully one day they’ll all be wearing the baggy green.

Connor, Nick, and Casey (not in photo) have all made the Douglas Cluster team to trial in the Peninsula championships in Innisfail later this month. Well done to these boys and let’s hope they all wear the mighty red V one shirt with pride in the future.

Clean up Australia Day by our Reef Guardian students
Hello everyone. Just a reminder that Tuesday and Thursday are my favourite days as I schedule my calendar to ensure I am in classrooms, I am in the playground, AND I am rarely in my “office”. These are the days that I have the best seat in the house to observe amazing students, learning; great teachers, teaching; and support staff doing above and beyond.

This over the last two weeks I have been observing Guided Reading Lessons.

It has been wonderful to see our newly trained volunteers working with students to use the Reciprocal Teaching process to Predict, Read, Clarify, Question and Summarise to improve reading skill. These seemingly simple steps are what good readers do and teaching and modelling these skills is an important part of our whole school reading program.

I also spent a lesson observing the Year 6/7 Guided Reading and was particularly impressed by a Year 6 student, Zyjah Morris, who was asked the question “What were you learning today?” he responded “My group was learning how to Clarify and Question”. Witnesses say that my congratulatory high-five was a little over enthusiastic but it was the kind of answer we now expect of our Year 6 and 7 students.

Make every day count in 2014

Make 2014 the year when your child doesn’t miss a day of school. Research shows that students who have good patterns of attendance are more likely to achieve at school. If students aren’t at school or don’t stay the whole day, they are missing valuable lessons. Check out the new Every Day Counts videos live on DETE TV. http://www.youtube.com/DETOurSchool

Our current attendance rate is: 92.8% (Target 95%)

Tuesday this week was the highest attendance recorded this year! Well done!

Late arrivals are recorded as a student absence and parents must provide a reasonable explanation and students must come through the administration office for a late arrival receipt. Early departures are also recorded as student absence and again students must leave via the administration office. Parents may be contacted by a staff member if they have not notified the class teacher of an absence. *Notes and emails are acceptable ways to notify the class teacher.

Port Douglas State School Website and QSchools App

The PDSS Website is best first point of contact for all of your school needs and will continue to develop into the best information and communication tool for members of our school community.

www.portdougss.eq.edu.au

The website directly informs the QSchools App (available on iTunes and Android devices.)

Please take a few minutes to add our website to your favourites and download and install the QSchools app on your device.

Stay Informed… DOWNLOAD QSCHOOLS TODAY!!

If you have any feedback or suggestions for the website please contact Mrs Loomes kloom1@eq.edu.au.
P&C Information and Updates

Thank you!
To John White, grandfather of two children at the school who organized and carried out the installation of the sound system in the Cyclone Shelter recently.

To Vice-President Cathy Nutt who has organized the assembly and placement of a new setting in the Butterfly Garden.

WANTED! Can you help us?

♦ A dinghy that could be painted up and placed in the play area for children. It need no longer be suitable to take to the water (but it needs to be safe for children to use).

♦ Assistance of a plumber/handyman (?), to construct a time capsule to be made from polypipe, sealed at both ends, for burial in a sheath of concrete at the Anniversary of the school on 3 May 2014. The capsule will contain written and photographic contributions from all students and will be opened in 25 years time.

♦ Which reminds me: the Anniversary will be held in the afternoon of Saturday 3 May at the school and followed by a dinner at the Port Douglas Surf Club in the evening. Please assist us and spread the word and date.

♦ Port Douglas Carnivale is fast approaching. Traditionally the school has entered a float with kids walking beside it or on it (depending on the size of the truck used). We’d appreciate hearing from some creative people who might be interested in putting together an entry.

The next meeting of the P&C will be held at 6:30pm on Tuesday 18 March at the school. You would be very welcome ……. come with a friend!

Ray Pitman  0418 221 901 srpitmang3@gmail.com

Whole School Moderated Writing Task

All students from Prep to Year 7, have been preparing for their writing task in week 8. Students will be required to write a literary description of a character including details about its physical appearance, qualities and feelings. Specialised vocabulary, sentence construction and planning will be assessed by the teacher, and then results will be moderated. Moderation involves teachers discussing student work and achievement levels in relation to the criteria sheet or GTMJ in order to have consistent judgements across year levels. Please ask your students about their writing progress.

An introduction to Mrs Johnstone PDSS staff member

I first moved to the Douglas region in 1982, from New Zealand, with my family. Our four children were educated at Mossman Stare School, and have since migrated all over the world. This is a good excuse for overseas travel over our summer holidays.

I am now teaching children of the students I taught a few years ago. It is wonderful to see many of these parents remembering me from their school years.

We moved to Port Douglas at the end of 1997, and have lived here since then. I have taught at Wonga Beach and Mossman before being appointed to Port Douglas.

I am thoroughly enjoying working with my Year 4/5 class this year; the students are approaching their learning tasks with enthusiasm and they understand I expect them to do well for themselves by persevering at any activity set for them.

NOTES SENT HOME

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<th>Class Notes</th>
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<td>Unit 2 English &amp; Maths—student task sheets and GTMJ</td>
<td>Yrs 1-7</td>
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Expressions of Interest
Starting March 2014

Is Parenting becoming painful?
Tell us about it!

P5 is a six week parenting program where parents can discover tools to
turn things around and discover pleasurable parenting!

P5 stands for Participatory Program Promoting Pleasurable Parenting.
Come along and explore the challenges we all face as parents. Discover some new
responses to children’s behaviour and feel renewed confidence in your
relationships with your child/ren. And have some fun!

For: All Parents and carers of children from baby to teenagers
Where: Port Douglas Neighbourhood Centre
When: Starting March 2014
Time: To be negotiated
Runs till: For 6 sessions
Cost: $60 per course, Covers course materials and lunches
Babysitting: Limited babysitting available – please contact us.

All Welcome ☺
Call 4099 5518 to book
Email - family2@pales.org.au
See www.g2fasscilia.com.au for more info

Port Douglas
State School
Endeavour to Succeed

APRIL 2014
SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLINICS

4 PLANNED LOCATIONS:
CAIRNS
PORT DOUGLAS
INNISFAIL
MAREEBA

COST: $145pp (includes FNQ Heat jersey)

FNQ FC HEAT

School of Excellence

Closing Date for 2015 Applications: 4 APRIL 2014

Trinity Bay State High School

Girls Only Clinic AGE 6-13
Dater: Mon 7 April – Thursday 10 April
Cost: $145pp (includes FNQ Heat jersey)
Venue: Cairns State High School

Soccer AGE 3-5
Dater: Mon 7 April – Thursday 10 April
Cost: $145pp (includes FNQ Heat jersey)
Venue: Cairns State High School

SCHOLASTIC
Book Clubs
Due: Mon 17th March